

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. The Examiner acknowledges receipt of the Supplemental Amendment filed on July 21, 2010 and the Amendment filed on July 20, 2010. The amendments as set forth in the Supplemental Amendment filed on July 21, 2010 have been entered. Claims 1-4, 8 and 18-25 are currently pending.

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Kristin L. Murphy, Esq. on September 17, 2010 at 9:42 am EST.

The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 1, line 8, after the first instance of the word "coupling," the words --and an actuator for actuating the multi-plate coupling,-- have been added;

In claim 1, line 9, after the first instance of the words "carrier part," the words --and the actuator is supported outside of the dish-shaped carrier cover,-- have been added;

In claim 3, line 2, the words "an actuator" have been replaced with --the actuator--; and

In claim 7, line 3, the words "an actuator" have been replaced with --the actuator--.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments, see pages 6-9 of the remarks, filed July 21, 2010, with respect to claims 1 and 18 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of April 20, 2010 has been withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 1-4, 7 and 18-25 are allowed.

5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art of record does not anticipate or render obvious a differential drive with a rotatably arranged differential carrier in which a first sideshaft gear and a second sideshaft gear are arranged, wherein a multi-plate coupling is arranged so as to be effective between the differential carrier and the second sideshaft gear, the differential carrier comprising a dish-shaped carrier part in which there are received the first and second sideshaft gears and differential gears, and a dish-shaped cover which receives the plate package of the multi-plate coupling, and an actuator for actuating the multi-plate coupling, wherein the plate package of the multi-plate coupling is axially supported against the dish-shaped carrier part and the actuator is supported outside of the dish-shaped carrier cover and the remaining structure of claims 1 and 18.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JUSTIN HOLMES whose telephone number is (571)272-3448. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00am to 4:30pm M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David D. Le can be reached on 571-272-7092. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/J. H./
Examiner, Art Unit 3655

/David D. Le/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3655
09/17/2010